

CONFIDENTIAL
UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY

(128)
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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021781 1CAB61
26/0757Z

ACTION OFFICE PDN-01
INFO ACDC-01 DSO-02 DIS-01 PD-02 NEA-03 P-01 PG-01
/012 21 21

P 260748Z JAN 81
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUENIA/NSIA WASHDC PRIORITY 5804
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2284
RUSBPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 7348
BT
C D N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 01847

USIA

FOR P/2H, INFO P/G, NEA
STATE FOR NEA/PAB, NEA - PLEASE PASS AMB, DUNBAR

E.O. 12356: OADR
SUBJECT: AFGHAN MEDIA PROJECT: IN THE HEADLINES
AGAIN

1. THE FOLLOWING PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL (PPI)
STORY APPEARED IN THE PESHAWAR FRONTIER POST JANUARY
25 UNDER THE HEADLINE "PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE FOR
AFGHANS":

2. BEGIN TEXT. QUOTE. THREE INSTRUCTORS OF BOSTON
UNIVERSITY, AN INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF
THE USA, HAVE ARRIVED IN PESHAWAR TO CONDUCT A
SIX-WEEK COURSE FOR 60 AFGHAN NATIONALS
IN THE BASIC
KNOWLEDGE OF PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO-FI
FILMING AND
COLLECTING NEWS REPORTS. BOSTON UNIVERSITY HAS
RECENTLY BEEN PROVIDED A FUND FOR THE PROJECT BY THE
APPROVAL OF U.S. CONGRESS.

3. MR. NICK MILLS, CHIEF INSTRUCTOR AND
LEADER OF
THE THREE-MEMBER TEAM TOLD PPI THIS MORNING THAT
THERE WILL BE TWO SESSIONS. THE FIRST PROBABLY WILL
START BY MID-FEBRUARY NEXT UNTIL THEIR PRELIMINARY
ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE HE SAID. UNDER THE
PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS AND AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY WOULD BE
SET UP WHICH WOULD BE HEADED BY A DIRECTOR OF THE
SEVEN-PARTY:

INCE WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
NEWS AGENCY, FLO. OF NEWS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO-FI
FI
WOULD START POURING IN FROM AFGHANISTAN WITH
LIVELINESS AND CREDIBILITY.

4. THE SEVEN-PARTY ALLIANCE OF THE AFGHAN MUJAHIDEEN
IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ENDED THE PROJECT AND WOULD
CONJECT A LINK FOR THE NEWS AGENCY IN THE COURSE OF
TIME TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT. THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO GIVE SANCTION TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS NEWS AGENCY. END QUOTE. END
TEXT.

5. A SHORTER VERSION OF THE STORY ALSO APPEARED ON
THE FRONT PAGE OF PARAGRAPHS DURING THE SAME DAY AND
SINCE PPI IS LINKED AND IDENTIFIED TO SUSPECT THE
STORY MAY BE FOR US.
THANKS TOO.

6. THIS TYPE OF PUBLICITY RUNS COMP
ETE
Y COUNTER TO
THE UNDERSTANDING WE THOUGHT WE HAD WITH NICK MILLS
ABOUT THE NEED TO KEEP A LOW-PROFI
E -- PARTICULARLY
DURING THE PRESENT "INTERIM" PERIOD. GICK HOAGLAND
HAS DISCUSSED THE MATTER AGAIN WITH NICK WND. WHILE
ADMITTING HE PROBABLY WENT TOO FAR, SAID THE REPORTER
PRETTY MUCH HAD THE ENTIRE STORY A
READY FROM BU VIA
NEWSWEEK COL
EAGUES IN THE U.S. (SEE PARA 8.)

7. THE STORY IS TROUBLESOME ON SEVERAL COUNTS. THE
CHANGES ARE GOOD THAT IT WILL BE REPLAYED OR
COMMENTED UPON BY PAPERS FRIEND
Y NEITHER TO US NOR
THE MEDIA PROJECT -- OR THAT IT COULD BE PICKED UP IN
A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION. IN EITHER CASE, THE RESU
T
WILL BE DISCOMFORTURE FOR THOSE PAKISTANI OFFICIALS
WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO HELP US MOVE THE PROJECT
BT
01847

↑ RELEASE

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021782 ICA062
26/0757Z

ACTION OFFICE PDH-01
INFO ACOC-01 DSO-02 SVC-01 DIS-01 PD-02 NEA-03 P-01 PG-01
/013 A1 21

P 260748Z JAN 87
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 5805
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2395
RUSBPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 7349
BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 01847

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FOR P/DH. INFO P/G. NEA
STATE FOR NEA/PAB. NEA - PLEASE PASS AMB. DUNBAR

E. D. 12356: OADR
SUBJECT: AFGHAN MEDIA PROJECT: IN THE HEADLINES
ALONG AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER SET BACKS OR
DERAI
MENT ALTOGETHER.

8. MORE DISTURBING STILL IS THE FACT THAT THE PPI
REPORTER WHO CONTACTED MILLS TURNS OUT TO BE A
KARACHI-BASED NEWSWEEK STRINGER WHO TOLD MI

S THAT
HE IS WORKING ON THE PAKISTAN END OF A
LARGER STORY
FOR NEWSWEEK ON THE NEWS AGENCY PROJECT. THIS WAS
CONFIRMED TO ME AND DICK HOAGLAND BY CBS'S KURT
LOHBECK, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THE STATES AND
WHO SAID WE CAN EXPECT ANOTHER WAVE OF PUB
ICITY FOR
THE MEDIA PROJECT AND BU. ACCORDING TO
OHBECK, NOT
ONLY DOES NEWSWEEK HAVE A STORY IN THE WORKS, BUT
BOTH NIGHT
INE AND CBS'S WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET
ARE WORKING ON REPORTS ON THE PROJECT.

9. WE HAVE FEW ILLUSIONS THAT YOU CAN STOP SUCH
STORIES. BUT CONTINUE TO BE DISMAYED AT BU'S
PROPENSITY TO SHOOT ITSE
F (AND US) IN THE FOOT.

QBEE

BT

*1847

GARBLED TEXT

01-135

CEUSE
← AS SHOWN